



SPORTS, PAGE 6

New lacrosse coach looks to build program

VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 4

New era of horror movies encourages a developing appreciation for genre

ETCETERA, PAGE 8

‘The Little Hours’: Velma ruins everything



STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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Student Government Association presidential elections focus on Greek life, campus safety

Zach Dwyer
Falcon News Service

When junior Aaron Mamer took part in rush week for the Theta Chi fraternity his freshman year, he said he only went to try to recruit guys to help start a club baseball team. After the first night, he really liked the people he met and continued to come back for other rush week events. He later received his bid and decided to join the fraternity after finding everyone very welcoming.

Mamer made it clear that the biggest thing that Greek life on campus tries to do when recruiting is tell incoming students that it’s not like what you see in the movies.

“It’s quite opposite from that life-style,” Mamer said. “We like to be out there for the community and for the school and students to show what a properly-run Greek organization looks like. We’re an international fraternity that can help you better yourself and better the fraternity as a whole.”

The former president of Theta Chi is now part of the Interfraternity Council at UWRF, which works with fraternities and sororities to sponsor events like Greek Week and blood drives. Theta Chi also puts on a puppy petting zoo before finals, helps give money to the national philanthropy organization to support the troops and participates in community pickups.

With Greek life including over 200 students at UWRF, greater representation for these students will be a key aspect of the spring SGA elections. Voting is open for all UWRF students next Tuesday through Thursday. Candidates had to sign up by April 4 and receive 10 signatures from other students to get on the ballot. James VandenBergh and Jordan Derby are running for president and vice president against Rosie Pechous and Tate Schlichting. Both sets of candidates have described the addition of a Greek senator on Student Senate



Photo courtesy of Tate Schlichting
Tate Schlichting will be running for SGA vice president and Rosie Pechous will be running for president in the upcoming elections.



Photo courtesy of James VandenBergh
James VandenBergh will be running against Pechous for president and Jordan Derby will be running against Schlichting for vice president.

as a main priority.

“We kind of get thrown to the wayside sometimes, and people just think (Greek organizations) are another “frat” on campus, and that they’re not really there for students,” Mamer said. “I think having an actual voice on student senate (is important), because we have a lot of great ideas, but sometimes it’s hard to be heard because we have a Greek label.”

Eliminating this stigma through proper representation is a goal for VandenBergh, who first joined the Student Govern-

ment Association as a freshman senator. Now a junior, VandenBergh has served as an at-large senator, director of the external relations committee and the vice chair of the statewide student governing body for the UW System.

Continued on page 3

Relay for Life aids in funding cancer research at River Falls High School



Photo courtesy of Danny Saunders
Mary Van Galen poses with Freddy the Falcon during the Relay for Life event at the River Falls High School last Friday.

Charlie Swanson
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The capabilities of modern medicine continue to reach incredible heights. However, despite the amazing progress that has been made in the medical field, cancer still remains incurable. Events like Relay for Life, which was held at the River Falls High School last Friday night, are attempting to raise money for the American Cancer Society to help aid in the research for a cure.

Relay for Life is an annual fundraiser that is open to anyone who wants to participate, regardless of their connection to

cancere. The “relay,” is a walk around the track of the gymnasium, where each corner of the track represents part of a cancer patient’s journey.

Surrounding the track are dozens of bags known as luminaries. These luminaries symbolize people who have or are fighting cancer and those who have died from cancer. Other events such as silent auctions, a spaghetti dinner and games also take place.

Continued on page 3

UWRF receives gold STARS rating in sustainability evaluation

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This semester, UW-River Falls was recognized by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for its improved sustainability initiatives. For the first time, the school was awarded the gold rating on AASHE’s STARS evaluation.

Standing for Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System, the assessment is used to hold post-secondary institutions to high standards through a wide array of sustainability criteria. For over seven years, the school has been refining its operations with the aim to graduate from silver status.

“When people ask what bumped us from silver to gold, it’s not any one thing. There’s as many as 30 areas that we’re constantly improving incrementally,” said Mark Klapatch, sustainability and custodial chair.

While the gold rating is a notable benchmark, it simply represents a step in the right direction for the school. According to Klapatch, there are still multiple areas on the report in which UW-River Falls scored zero points.

“If we wanted to bump up our score going forward, we could focus on some of those areas,” he said.

In time, an employee educator’s program would be a practical way to further improve the school’s score. In terms of operations, improved air quality and clean, renewable energy are also on his radar.

Klapatch emphasized the constantly changing nature of the STARS report, which requires schools to adapt yearly to retain their score, let alone improve upon it.

“If we looked at where we were five to six years ago, we were much closer than we were one to three years ago,” he said. The changing criteria forces the school to plan ahead.

“If we complete the STARS report next year, I can almost guarantee we will drop back to silver. Gold isn’t the end goal ... We should always be improving,” he said.

Continued on page 3

News Briefs:

New St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center to open April 12

The St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center will hold a grand opening Thursday, April 12, in River Falls. The center is a partnership between the River Falls Economic Development Corporation, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, the City of River Falls, and Chippewa Valley Technical College.

The center is located in the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park, 1091 Sutherland Avenue, River Falls. The open house begins at 2 p.m. with a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting at 3 p.m.

Scheduled speakers include Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs for the U.S. Department of Commerce Dennis Alvord; Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Sheila Harsdorf; Vice President of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Aaron Hagar; UW System Board of Regents President John Robert Behling; Chippewa Valley Technical College President Bruce Barker; and City of River Falls Mayor Dan Toland.

“The St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center will be a one-stop location for businesses to access services and has great potential to provide new connection to the university’s students and faculty,” said UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen. “It’s a strategic priority for UW-River Falls to encourage this kind of innovation and partnership, and we are proud to be a partner in this exciting collaboration.”

Chancellor Van Galen will join U.S. Economic Development Administration Regional Director Jeannette Tamayo and the River Falls Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and others in the ribbon-cutting event.

Planning for the center began in 2010 after interested organizations did a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the regional economy. It found significant numbers of business start-ups; high percentages of small business failures; high population growth compared to the rest of Wisconsin; below-average earnings; established companies interested in spinning off new business ventures; and a desire to better connect university resources with the business community.

Work on the facility, located across Highway 35 from the Whitetail Corporate Park, began in May 2017 and it opened to its first tenant in February 2018.

The St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center will team with UWRF’s Center for Innovation and Business Development (CIBD) which is located in the new facility to provide business planning, coaching and mentoring assistance, software, financial advisory services and many other resources to young and growing businesses

“The St. Croix Valley area is one of the fastest-growing in Wisconsin and we’re excited to be a part of the engine that will drive business growth in the region,” said CIBD Director Danielle Campeau. “There is so much potential in this region and working together, we can help grow business to benefit everyone.”

For more information, contact Campeau at 715-425-3066 or danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu.

UWRF Theatre presents ‘A Mixed-Media Midsummer Night’s Dream’

University Theatre at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls will present “A Mixed-Media Midsummer Night’s Dream” by William Shakespeare April 19-21 and 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanford Syse Theatre (Black Box) in Kleinpell Fine Arts.

The production is a creative reimagining of Shakespeare’s classic, combining traditional stage acting and film production techniques. It is a collaborative effort and a unique showcase of the talents of UWRF students and alumni.

The play is directed by UWRF alumni Karen Biedermann, Justin DeLong, and Taylor Evans who are all practicing their artistry in the Twin Cities. Biedermann is a freelance actor and theatre director in the area, and DeLong and Evans are artistic directors and actors with Mosaic Productions in St. Paul.

The cast features Rachael Buckallew of Little Falls, Minn., as Puck and Peter Quince; Natalie Watters of St. Paul as Oberon and Theseus; Sam Jacobson of St. Paul as Lysander; Jan Rozumalski of Luck as Demetrius; Lynnia Alden of North Branch, Minn., as Hermia; Audra LePage of Superior as Helena; Dan Davila of Harlingen, Texas, as Egeus; Ben Larson of St. Paul as Nick Bottom and Pyramus; Violet Davila of Harlingen, Texas, as Robin Starveling and Mustardseed; Morgan Coleman of Superior as Snug and Cobweb; Trevor Heim-Prechtler of Green Bay as Flute, Thisby, and Moth; and Jana Knudsen of Prior Lake, Minn., as Peaseblossom, Snout, and Wall.

Tickets are \$10/adults, \$8/seniors (60+) and \$5/students with UWRF ID and others under 18. The Box Office in Kleinpell Fine Arts is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning April 12. On performance nights, the Box Office opens at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in person, by phone at 715-425-3114, or online at marketplace.uwrf.edu.

For more information, email martha.donnelly@uwrf.edu or call the Box Office.

UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau to host agriculture day

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter will host the third annual Ag Day on Campus from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, to promote Wisconsin agriculture. The event is free and open to the public.

Through interactive events, non-agricultural students, faculty and community members are invited to learn more about agriculture, interact with animals and enjoy food grown and raised by farmers. This year’s theme is “kNOw Ag. kNOw Food.”

Student organizations in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), along with local agricultural businesses, will have educational and interactive booths set up outside on the University Center mall in the middle of campus. In addition, beginning at 4:45 p.m., a free beef sandwich meal will be served in Room 200 of the Agricultural Science building and at 5:15 p.m., Wisconsin Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Secretary Sheila Harsdorf will speak about her personal experience in agriculture and government trends that influence today’s agricultural policy.

“Ag Day on Campus is a great opportunity to reach out to our fellow students who don’t have as much contact with agriculture as we do,” said current member Joelle Liddane. “As Farm Bureau members, we take great pride in educating people about everything that goes into producing the food they eat and the clothes they wear. When you’re so far removed from farming, it can be easy to become misinformed about agriculture, so that’s where we as a Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter can step up and change that.”

The UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter was first established on campus in April 2012 and is associated with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (wfbf.com). Wisconsin’s largest general farm organization. Much like Wisconsin’s diverse agricultural landscape, Farm Bureau members represent all farm commodities, and all farm sizes and management styles. Farm Bureau’s mission is to lead farming and rural communities through legislative representation, education, public relations and leadership development.

For more information, email beth.zimmer@my.uwrf.edu or call CAFES at 715-425-3535

UW-River Falls Bowls for Hope raises \$6,500

The ninth annual Bowls for Hope event held March 6 at UW-River Falls raised \$6,500 for Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley. Each year UWRF collaborates with the community to raise funds through Bowls for Hope for a worthy organization that makes a difference in the St. Croix Valley.

“Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley appreciates the generosity of the artists, restaurants, UWRF volunteers, and the community that contributed to the success of the UWRF Bowls for Hope event,” said Executive Director Agnes Ring. “As the recipient of the 2018 Bowls for Hope proceeds, Family Resource Center will use the funds to meet eligible emergency needs of families with young children enrolled in our home visiting program. Every dollar spent in the flex fund program for home visiting families will be matched by the Family Foundation Home Visiting program.”

Guests voted for their favorite soup of the evening and this year’s winner of the People’s Choice Award went to the West Wind Supper Club’s Cider Beer Cheese Soup. The restaurant owners and chefs also voted for their favorite soup of the night and the winner of the Chef’s Choice Award was the Roasted Red Pepper Bisque from Mei Mei’s Cookies.

Artists contributing bowls for the event were Marilyn Anderson, Donna Badje, Megan Bauman, Ingrid Bjerstedt-Rogers, Eoin Breadon, Bob Brodersen, Cheryl Carter, Roger Evans, Jay Jensen, Randy Johnston, Kinnickinnic Clayworks, LLC, Michael Luethmers, Pat McCardle, Jan McKeachie-Johnston, Wendy Olson, S.C. Rolf, Rhonda Willers, Scott Zeinert, Rhonda Willers’ ceramic classes at UWRF, Eoin Breadon’s glass studio classes at UWRF, River Falls High School ceramic classes taught by Taylor Berman, and Kelyn King’s class at Meyer Middle School. Renaissance Academy classes taught by Kyle Stapleton created cutting boards for the Bowls for Hope event’s silent auction.

Special this year were the featured Bowls from Two Hearts made by Bob Brodersen from clay that belonged to the late Doug Johnson.

Participating restaurants providing and serving soup were Belle Vinez, Bo’s ‘N Mine, Copper Kettle, Junior’s Restaurant and Tap House, Kilkarney Hills, Kinni View Deli at Riverwalk Square, Mei Mei’s Cookies, River Falls Area Hospital Dining Services, Swinging Bridge Brewing Co., UWRF Chartwells Dining Services, West Wind Supper Club,

and WE Market Co-op.

Pickles were donated by Oh Snap Pickles. Piano music for the evening was provided by Nan Jordahl. Live radio coverage was provided by WRFW-FM.

To date, Bowls for Hope has raised more than \$52,500 for local charitable organizations.

For more information, email mary.vangalen@uwrf.edu or visit www.uwrf.edu/bowlsforhope.

Student Senate Update: Apr. 10

UWRF Violence Prevention Coordinator Chantel Mitchell was a guest speaker. Topics she covered included:

- Her desire to make the UWRF website on how to respond to sexual assault more organized and comprehensible.
- Recently, Student Government Association President Abby Wendt signed a letter that states that UWRF is a “zero tolerance” campus – meaning the university explicitly condemns sexual assault and intends to work towards a better campus climate (more emphasis on reporting, holding people accountable, etc.).
- Chief of Staff Rosie Pechous suggested that Mitchell try to push/advertise this “zero tolerance” policy more heavily in the Residence Halls. Mitchell agreed.
- Mitchell mentioned that there is currently no legal requirement that campuses investigate issues with sexual assault within a certain time frame. This is the result of a 2017 decision by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to scrap policies laid down by the Obama Administration.

Elections are coming up; time is up for candidates to sign up to run. There will be an opportunity for anyone running to sit at a table in the Involvement Center on Thursday to promote their position.

Update on Kevin Hines: the SGA would like to reschedule him to speak this semester. However, it is more likely that his talk will be scheduled for next semester or canceled entirely.

The Student Media Committee bylaws were slightly amended (there was a clerical error) and approved.

There was discussion about the Green Fund, which Mark Klapatch from the Office of Sustainability has been trying to push into motion for several years. There was some debate on the matter:

- Jonathan Aiuppa wondered why SGA is still trying to get the Green Fund implemented since “no one seems to want it.”
- Vice President Kaylee Kildahl said that the fund has not been marketed properly in the past, and Klapatch has found people who are extremely interested in the idea.
- There were also complications during the referendum last year that asked students whether to implement the Green Fund; the election itself had some mix-ups and the voter turnout was not high enough.
- Pechous pointed out that there is no physical Office of Sustainability and that Klapatch is alone and only part-time in his position.

The information in this update comes from the minutes posted to the Student Government Association Falcon-Sync page every week and from the live tweet posts gathered by Student Voice staff. The Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Weekly UWRF Crime Report

Wednesday, April 4

- An intoxicated person was reported at the Agricultural Science building at 11:09 p.m.

Thursday, April 5

- Suspicious activity was reported at Hathorn Hall at 12:57 p.m.

Thursday, April 5

- Smoke smell was reported at Grimm Hall at 11:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 5

- Underage alcohol was reported at Crabtree Hall at 11:17 p.m.

Friday, April 6

- Welfare checks were reported Crabtree Hall at 12:52 p.m.

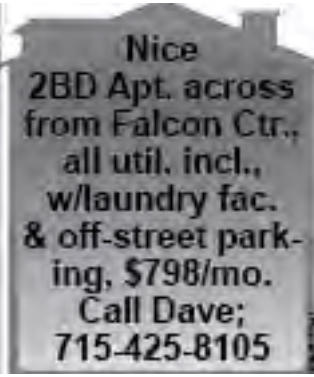
Friday, April 6

- Underage alcohol was reported at Johnson Hall at 9:29 p.m.

Monday, April 9

- Weapons were reported at Crabtree Hall at 9:16 p.m.

Editor’s Note:
Information for this section is taken from the UW-River Falls Police Department



SGA presidential elections focus on Greek life, safety

Continued from Page 1

VandenBergh and Derby have five pillars to their campaign: veterans, Greek life, athletics, LGBTQ+ community and sustainability. These five topics break down into their more detailed platform. These include installing a Greek life senator, expanding gender inclusive space in Johnson Hall, updating the veterans lounge and eliminating some of the fees athletes must pay to use the weight room in the Falcon Center.

They aim to work with student government funding, sustainable organizations and members of the diversity and inclusivity office to accomplish these goals.

“I want to keep up with a lot that is going in in SGA,” VandenBergh said. “We’re big supporters of Mental Health Awareness Week and the “It’s on Us” week of action. Two years ago, I helped plan the “It’s On Us” summit with all 26 student government presidents in the UW System, and we had speakers from Washington D.C. It’s something that I want to continue.”

These plans are a positive step toward giving potential voters a true idea of what the candidates stand for, compared to the voting just being a popularity contest. Derby said that she thinks having an improved relationship with the student body can be beneficial for their SGA, because communication is lacking and a lot of students don’t realize how much SGA does.

VandenBergh added that improving student outreach is always something that each administration has to deal with. His campaign has included a variety of testimonials and digital advertising in the weeks before the election. If elected, he said he believes social media can play a huge role in reaching out to the study body, whether it be through a powerful tool like Snapchat or Facebook and Twitter.

But beyond interacting with students in a familiar digital environment, VandenBergh and Derby want to meet with the students they represent face-to-face.

“We will be campaigning outside Pete’s Creek in the University Center, and students can approach us,” VandenBergh said. “We want to know what students want and be advocates for the student body. I think we have a platform that a lot of students can identify with, and we can be the voice of the student body.”

He would also like to sit down for an hour a week in the involvement center to give students an opportunity to talk to him about what’s going on around campus. This would be one of many opportunities to learn about and listen to what SGA is doing and listen to the needs and issues of the students they’re representing.

“If elected, I would bring over three years of experience and a proven track record,” VandenBergh said. “I’ve shown I can deliver through the Hump Day Café and Safe Ride Home program, and this would give me a larger platform to have a positive impact on the student body.”

Derby also wants to show that she can bring a new and unique perspective to the role of vice president. Derby currently serves as the Collegiate Panhellenic Council president, which helps work with the different sororities on campus. She’s also served on the executive board of the Phi Mu fraternity.

“There was a lot of Greek life on Senate in the past, and that’s something that I can bring back,” Derby said. “We’re running a pretty unique campaign of having a whole ticket behind us, which can provide us with a lot of different perspectives and be very beneficial to our campus.”

Having a ticket behind them means more than just voting on a president and a vice president but having a group of potential senators that they encourage students to also elect. This includes members from different colleges on campus,

veterans, Greek life, former athletes and people that haven’t served before, which VandenBergh said can be important for giving a fresh look on SGA. Derby added that they all have the same vision for the university and can create a positive impact if they’re elected.

Pechous and Schlichting bring a different perspective to their campaign. While they may not have as extensive experience as Vandenbergh and Derby, they are dedicated to improving their campus.

“Tate and I aren’t doing this for our resumes; we’re doing this because we’ve had a lot of experience in different areas of campus and different groups,” Pechous said. “We’re born advocates and want to change the administration for what it needs to be. We can’t walk away from campus not making the changes we want to make.”

Pechous is president of the Resident Hall Association and chief of staff on Student Senate, while Schlichting is a resident assistant and at-large senator this semester. The four main points of their campaign are structure, support, sustainability and safety.

Structure includes rewriting bylaws to give new responsibilities to senators and add a Greek and sustainability senator. Support would be initiating better communication between organizations on campus and helping to co-sponsor events with them. Schlichting added that there are a lot of opportunities on campus to get student organizations involved with each other to create a better campus environment.

“I feel like the campus is very broken up into groups and there’s no communication or connections that happens,” Pechous said. “What I’ve noticed from sitting on SGA is that we have no idea what others do on campus, and we want to change that as the mother organization.”

Sustainability is also a key to their campaign. They want to create an office in the involvement center for sustainability and become part of the Tree Campus USA program. Pechous and Schlichting said they believe there is still lots of room for improvement in sustainability efforts on campus. This includes keeping the conversation going about the Green Fund and committing to plans for an earth week.

“Even if it wasn’t a week, a couple of days where ECOS or resource management could showcase what they have and bring in a speaker to talk about the environment and sustainability,” Schlichting said. “I think it’s important because a campus we are still heavily invested in fossil fuels.”

Safety is the final pillar of their campaign, which revolves mainly around relocating the blue emergency light posts on campus. The back path near Ames isn’t well lit, so they want to install the poles at the beginning and end of the path.

“We firmly believe that we need to keep them,” Pechous said. “Smartphones may be dead at night, and especially on a campus where we walk everywhere.”

Beyond their initiatives, they want to increase SGA transparency, because they also think that not enough people on campus understand what role they play.

“All of our budget is (student) money,” Pechous said. “The purpose of SGA is to advocate for students, and we think that’s been lost in the last few administrations.”

This includes doing what’s best for the campus community at-large.

“It shouldn’t be about what Rosie and I want, but what the students want,” Schlichting said. “The past few administrations have been more goal-oriented, where we would like to be more student-oriented. We should really be the foremost campus advocates for student voices.”

To learn more about Greek life on campus, students can look at the fraternity and sorority page on the UWRF website or go to the Theta Chi Falcon Sync portal for more information.

Relay for Life aids in funding cancer research at River Falls High School

Continued from Page 1

The walk around the track is very emotional for the many whose lives have been forever altered by cancer. “Cancer affects everyone somehow,” Matt Cariveau said, a relay participant who was walking with his 4-H team.

Kathy Casey, a volunteer at Relay for Life, had to watch her sister endure cancer. She volunteers because she wants to do whatever it takes to find a cure. “All I want is to get more money to better help treatment research,” Casey said.

The luminaria ceremony took place later that night. The ceremony is meant to honor those who have dealt with cancer in their lives and remember those who lost their battle with cancer. Andrea Fults, one of the Event Leads for Relay for Life, took to the podium and read the names of the loved ones who were honored during the ceremony as the lights were dimmed. “We will not forget those who have lost their battle to this disease, nor will we forget the story behind each luminaria bag,” Fults said.

After the names were read, Fults asked anyone in the audience who had been affected by cancer in some way to rise and light the glow stick that had been provided to them. Every person in the gym activated their glow stick. “All of our glow sticks are lit because we have all been affected by cancer, but together we are doing something about it,” Fults said.

The purpose of Relay for Life is not just to grieve lost loved ones, but also to celebrate survivors and to unite under the common goal of discovering a cure. The relay allows people from all walks of life to show their support for cancer patients. In addition to the glow sticks illuminating the darkness of the gymnasium, “HOPE” was spelled out in lights above the podium. With no cure currently available, the message meant that sometimes all someone needs to survive their diagnosis is a little bit of hope.

Relay for Life has already raised over \$90,000 of their target \$130,000 for this year. They will be raising money until August 31. For more information about donating, check out @relay.acevents.org.

UWRF receives gold STARS rating in sustainability evaluation

Continued from Page 1

However, the report isn’t required every year. AASHE allows a three-year window between assessments for effective planning and execution. “I’m advocating to complete the STARS report every two and a half to three years. That way we’ll have time to implement changes strategically,” said Klapatch.

Looking ahead, the STARS report presents long-term goals to strive for. There’s a platinum level above gold, which represents the highest level of sustainability recognition from AASHE. However, this rating is highly elite according to Klapatch. Out of over 800 schools in 30 countries who take part in the report, less than a dozen have received the platinum rating.

Earning the gold rating from AASHE is an important step for UW-River Falls. It demonstrates a significant accomplishment. However, it doesn’t mark a stopping point for the sustainability initiatives. The success on this year’s STARS report is indicative of the school’s ongoing sustainability efforts and serves as a reminder that such efforts result in real progress.

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Keep updated on the latest stories and be sure to tune in Tuesday nights at 7:00 for live tweets of the Student Senate meetings.



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EDITORIAL

Videoclip reveals unsettling truths about U.S. media

Around two weeks ago, a videoclip started circulating social media that painted a chilling picture of modern television news.

In the video, dozens of TV stations from around the U.S. read from a script that had been handed to them from their owners, the Sinclair Broadcast Group. Sinclair owns or operates nearly 200 television stations in the U.S., and the videoclip compiled dozens of news anchors from different stations reading aloud the exact same story. The anchors sounded robotic in their delivery of the message, and this effect was compounded when the clips were spliced together and laid on top of one another.

This videoclip only scratches the surface of the problems that have been plaguing news stations across the country for the past several years. Things have been especially bad ever since the arrival of the Trump administration and the “fake news” message that President Trump has publicly embraced.

According to Deadspin.com, which originally put together the video, “Employees at local news stations across the country say it’s frustrating being forced to ignore real local news in favor of propaganda that smears other media outlets.”

Sinclair owns affiliates for bigger TV networks like CBS, Fox, NBC and ABC. It also owns many smaller, more local stations, the closest of which is a station based in the Twin Cities called The CW. Their control has slowly expanded over the stations that they own to the point where they’ve begun to alter content.

Reports say that nearly 50 percent of a station’s total newscast is made up of news packages written and produced by Sinclair, many of which have a right-leaning political connotation. This only leaves about 30 percent of the news cast for local stories, with the additional 20 percent being made up of national wire stories. Using this corporate content isn’t optional, and news producers can face legal and financial penalties if they deviate from the pre-made packages.

This is bad for journalism for a couple reasons. First, this clearly leaves an imbalance in the amount of local news coverage “local” news stations are providing to their viewers. Reporting on events and issues that are ongoing in the community get less coverage than they should, and viewers are robbed of news that could directly affect them.

On a grander scale, this trend is seriously damaging the reputation of journalism as a whole. The impression that the public gets from these forced messages is that the media is a corporation that does not genuinely investigate, report and protect democracy. In reality, it is a case where the reporters are as frustrated as the public that they are not able to do their job properly.

It’s a difficult problem to address because it is so systematically ingrained in our news media. However, the way to combat it is to give support to the small, local news organizations that have managed to stay independent of big corporations like Sinclair.

Citizens should be fully aware of this situation. They should also be aware that responsibility for it is not solely on the media. For a democracy to function properly, news makers should be separate from the corporations and political leaders they are supposed to keep an eye on.

Editorials represent the opinions of the Student voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

STUDENT VOICE

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Read the *Student Voice* online at www.uwrfvoice.com

The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.

All editorial content in the Student Voice is determined by the newspaper’s Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

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New Era of horror movies encourages a developing appreciation for genre

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

It may just be me, but I think that scary or horror movies these days are some of the best movies being shown in theatres right now.

One of the most memorable scary movies that I vividly remember sitting through was the classic, “Silence of the Lambs.” I watched this movie during a middle school birthday sleepover. Nothing says, “Happy birthday” and “Welcome to another year of being a pre-teen!” quite like watching a terrifying movie with your best friends.

I remember that even with my friends all laying on either side of me, shoulder-to-shoulder, the movie was barely bearable. I can remember so clearly how bright and big the screen was and how dark and unfamiliar my friend’s basement was as we all stayed up late to watch Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins play Clarice Starling and Dr. Hannibal Lecter.

Back then, I am pretty sure one of the reasons that these types of scary movies caused me so much fear was because it did not seem so unrealistic to me. While I knew I was watching a movie, the scenario portrayed on film was not far-fetched enough. I have this same problem with “Law and Order: SVU” but tenfold, because the cases shown on each episode of that show are actually taken from real cases in the real world.

Still, today I experience so much second-hand empathy that my breathing aligns itself with the actors on screen, and I will cry when they cry. I even blush and squirm uncomfortably when the characters in the scene make a fool of themselves or do literally anything embarrassing.

When “Silence of the Lambs” was thankfully over, I doubt

Horoscopes by Beth: Absolutely, almost consistently, very, very bad

Bethany Lovejoy

Columnist

Aries

You’re going to post a lot on Snapchat this week, but not about things that people actually care about. You’ll probably make the equivalent of a stop motion of you blinking then add a fun caption that says something along the lines of, “OMG, actually, like, the way I look today, even though my hair is a little messy, lol.”

I mean, all for the self-love but... 10 outfit pics does not the world need.

Taurus

You are gonna chew on a lot of ice this week.

Like not in a weird sports metaphor way, unless that’s what you’re into. I mean, you’re going to chew legitimate ice this week and I guess you’re feel pretty okay about this.

Still bad for your teeth, though.

Gemini

You’re gonna meet a bro named Steve. Steve’s gonna tell you that he can do all these gnarly tricks and all, and you’re going to be like:

Wow, Steve.

But eventually the bromance will end. Steve can only parkour himself to the nearest park bench so many times before it wears on your nerves.

Cancer

You are going to lay dormant for another month.

Congrats buddy.

Leo

You’re going to have one of those weird conversations that happen once every five years, where someone begins to describe how they got a scar and the rest just sort of join in. This won’t bother you until you read this column, then you’ll pretty much think to yourself, “Yeah, you do have that conversation like once every five years or so...”

Virgo

Virgo, this week you are going to be petty. Everyone else is going to be all like, “Oh my god, I love Jaclyn.” But you? You’re going to remember the one time that Jaclyn didn’t return your chapstick and be out for blood.

Just buy a new Eos, bruh.

Libra

You’re either only going to wear basketball shorts or Adi-

I was capable of articulating to my friends just how scared I was; I remember laying awake for hours in the dark. My friends did not seem to have this problem and soon, on either side of me, I began to feel less and less movie as everyone else drifted off to what seemed to me like peaceful sleep.

The next morning my mom came to pick me up, and I do not remember driving out of my friend’s driveway before my body finally succumbed to sleep now that I was in the safety of daylight and my mom’s car.

Because of my intense and unpleasant history with scary movies, no one is more surprised than I am when I say how excited I am about the kinds of horror movies I have been seeing in theaters lately. I would like to say my burgeoning ability to sit through and like a scary movie finally is a sign I am really growing up or evolving into a real, adult human being. Or maybe it is just a sign that horror movies have also matured from being movies that were simply just gory and cheaply produced into masterful works of film that reel audiences in with a thought-provoking plots and incredible acting.

Either way, I am finally ready to embrace this new era of scary movies and so should you. If you are one of the few people who has not yet seen “A Quiet Place,” what are you waiting for? I predictably cried and white-knuckled my way through this incredible movie. “A Quiet Place” made me feel like I would see one of the crazy monsters from the film at every dark turn on my drive home, and it was intense and distressing and surprisingly tender. It is a must see, but most importantly though, “A Quiet Place” will not keep me from sleeping tonight.

Lauren Simenson is a senior majoring in journalism and communication studies. Her interests include eating dark chocolate, online window shopping and reading anything she can get her hands on. While not at work, at school, taking naps, or doing homework, she likes to cook, canoe, fish and write.

das sandals this week. This doesn’t make you a bad person, but it does really weird other people out. Buy some adult shoes that can handle our changing weather. Cover the lower half of your leg.

Scorpio

You’re a Chipotle fan, but this week you’re going to have to branch out.

Maybe you’ll go to Taco Bell or Qdoba; you’re just going to start finding better burritos elsewhere. The place you find probably won’t have cilantro in the rice, which makes it easier to convince people that their food is good. Accept this change and move on; we can’t always go to Chipotle.

Sagittarius

You have realized something very important this week.

What you have realized is that the girl who writes the horoscopes for the Student Voice may or may not make up the horoscopes every week. You’re in denial about it, of course. She said in one column she had a tarot deck ... how can this not be real? I mean, the corn in a cup recipe; that was good, this has to be real.

It’s probably not.

Capricorn

You broke something this week. Whether it’s your femur or just your will to live, it’s just straight up broken.

This is what you get for trying to pitch uphill gymnastics as a club. Capricorn, be satisfied with normal gymnastics.

Aquarius

Arbor Day is coming up, and you’re the only person who has really remembered. Everyone else knows it’s a holiday and are vaguely aware of its placement in spring, but you have like 10 Google calendar alerts up for this bad boy.

It’s okay man, Arbor Day is a cool holiday and every day we get a little closer.

Pisces

Have you been knitting? Texting real fast? Just being like an art major or something? Because your hands are gonna look bomb this week; like the whole week. You’re going to look down and be like, “Wow I have nice hands.”

And boy, do you.

Every single week that Bethany Lovejoy writes for the Student Voice is a surprise, likely because she holds the record for threatening to quit the most. Bethany Lovejoy is a junior creative writing major who writes both the movie reviews and the horoscopes. If you asked who her favorite staff member was she would say, “no comment.”

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Winning is contagious, but losing is for St. Louis

Zack Anderson

Columnist

Over the last twenty years, we have witnessed a trend in sports. The trend shows that winning is contagious. During this time period, we have seen cities—with more than one professional team—ride the momentum of other teams located within the same area.

It all started with Boston and their team, the New England Patriots. Shortly after the Patriots won the Super Bowl in 2002, the Red Soxs, Bruins and Celtics all won championships. While some attribute this to luck or coincidence, I do not find these factors to be the case. My reasoning behind this belief stems from what we have now seen also happen in Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia. These cities pose a clear rippling effect of winning in their programs.

At the same time, however, losing can be just as contagious as winning for a city. The heartbreaking losses that a city suffers in one sport has been shown to affect the other sports located in that city.

Taking this into account, I would like to give a city the credit it deserves. No, I do not want to highlight the achievements of Boston or Chicago. Instead, I would like to recognize the city of St. Louis for having one of the worst five-year runs in sports history. This type of recognition does not merit a trophy, but instead a column, written by a fan who was present for it all.

It all began in 2013...

Cardinals lose the World Series to the Boston Red Sox:

The Cardinals were coming off a great series against the Los Angeles Dodgers in the N.L. Championship. If you remember correctly, that series was where people started discussing whether Clayton Kershaw could pitch in the playoffs—what good times. The actual World Series itself was painful for any Cardinals fan to watch. I like to think of

this event as the catalyst that jump-started this whole rut we are now in.

2014: Sam Bradford re-tears his ACL in back-to-back seasons:

The former “first-overall selection” from Oklahoma might have one of the biggest “what if” careers in NFL history. Before he was being traded around the league, Bradford gave the city of St. Louis hope. In his rookie season, he led the Rams to a 7-9 record where they ended within one game of making the playoffs. Maybe it was bad luck—or me telling everyone the Rams were back—but Bradford would never sustain that success. In 2013, Bradford tore his ACL in a game against the Panthers and would miss the remainder of the season.

This story doesn’t end with a happy ending. In pre-season the following year, Bradford re-tore his ACL and the rams eventually traded him for Nick Foles; yeah, the guy who just won Super Bowl MVP. Don’t worry, we cut him. You’re welcome Philly.

2015: St. Louis Blues win the central, followed by an upset in six games by Minnesota in the first Round:

If you remember from that year, the St. Louis Blues were one of the best teams in the Western Conference. They were led by Olympic hero T.J. Oshie and upcoming superstar Vladimir Tarasenko. As we headed into this series, many were speculating about a potential meeting in the next round against the Chicago Blackhawks. Of course, with high expectations, the Blues were upset in the first round. Maybe the Minnesota Wild were the better team, or maybe the Blues were just cursed. I feel better admitting to the curse, but I will let you be the judge.

2015: Cardinals lose in first round of the playoffs to the Chicago Cubs:

The Cardinals finished the 2015 regular season with the best record in baseball. The first-round collapse was a little surprising at the time but showed promise with the young Cubs roster. For the fans of St. Louis, the collapse was magnified because it was the Cubs—our biggest rival. However,

I am not bitter at all. I won’t even mention that the Cubs got swept in the next round because that would be off topic and unnecessary.

2016: The Rams relocate to Los Angeles:

This one hurt the most of all for fans of St. Louis. When St. Louis initially received the Rams in 1995, there was always the threat of departure. This led many to believe that the Rams should have never gone there to begin with.

2017: Rams make the playoffs after 11 consecutive losing seasons in St. Louis:

The Rams only had success in the early stage of their arrival. After that, it was over a decade of bad records and early draft pics. The fans of St. Louis were split on whether or not to even like the Rams anymore. I am happy that the Rams made the playoffs, but it feels wrong. It feels like two friends of mine got divorced, and now they want me to pick a side.

2018: Currently, and yet to come:

The Blues began the year as one of the hottest teams in the NHL and with the best record in the Western Conference. Due to the Blues’ curse—or the Mike Yeo effect—the Blues went 4-8 in the month of February. As a result, the Blues waved the white flag and traded away Paul Stastny. As if all of this wasn’t bad enough, the Blues got me all excited that they might secure that last Wildcard spot. The Blues were eliminated in the last game of the season and missed the playoffs. This brings us to present day, and the trends seems to be continuing. However, all things come to an end, eventually. I hope...

Have feedback and comments? Send them to zackander-son28@gmail.com. I’d love to hear them!

Zack Anderson is a senior at River Falls. He is a biomedical major with plans to go to medical school after graduation. Outside of medicine, his interests include sports, movies and music.

STUDENT voices

Compiled by Alayna Rudolph

“If you could time travel to any year, which one would you choose and why?”



Abby Simon
(Freshman)

“2005-2007. I have really good memories during that time with my friends from childhood.”



Justin Trecartin
(Sophomore)

“5000 BC, so I could see how the pyramids were made and how the Egyptians lived.”



Westley Philips
(Sophomore)

“The 1980’s. It was a cool decade for music and film.”



Audrey Klein
(Sophomore)

“The 1990’s. I love the atmosphere and music.”



Will Kramer
(Junior)

“The year of Woodstock. It was a defining point in counter culture.”



Logan Garrick
(Junior)

“1920. The roaring 20’s were fun. I would do nothing but party.”

New lacrosse coach looks to build program

Zach Dwyer
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

When UW-River Falls announced it would be adding lacrosse as a varsity sport in 2018, it faced a tall task of starting a program from scratch. Luckily, the new coach has plenty of experience at building a program from the ground up.

Alison Jennings was named the university’s first lacrosse coach in July after the athletic department announced in April that lacrosse would be added as the 17th varsity sport. Jennings helped start the program at Augsburg College in Minneapolis and was the assistant coach for the past four years.

“This is their fifth year, so being able to see that develop and grow was really helpful,” Jennings said. “To see the ups and downs and having that insight is super important in the recruiting world and seeing what goes on behind the scenes.”

She also served as the head coach for the Osseo-Park Center High School team for the past seven years. She said it was hard job to change the culture of a program and set standards right away, but they have developed into a well-established program in Minnesota.

“It’s crazy, because nowadays the girls are starting out in third and fourth grade,” Jennings said. “I wish I would’ve known about lacrosse when I was that young. The norm for (my age) was ninth grade but seeing those third and fourth graders is a huge growth in the game.”

Jennings played lacrosse for four years at Cooper High School in New Hope, Minn., before playing at the club level at the University of Minnesota. She said her main sport was actually swimming, but her time in college made her fall in love with the game of lacrosse and want to give back to the sport.

“I’m a club coach too ... so it’s exciting to get your hands on all the age groups and make an impact wherever I go,” Jennings said.

Jennings first saw that UWRF was adding lacrosse when she was at Augsburg, which was the first varsity lacrosse program in Minnesota.

“I was looking at the next step and had heard about River Falls,” Jennings said. “I was really excited about the opportunity here and heard great things about the community

and support they give. With the new athletic facility and the academics here, being able to develop a great program in the Midwest and keep that talent here is exciting.”

The team will be independent their first year before joining the Midwest Women’s Lacrosse Conference, which includes teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and the upper Midwest. The team will also look to travel to Texas over spring break each season to ensure they get a good variety of games in while weather conditions are still questionable in Wisconsin.

With a new program comes the difficult task of recruiting people to play under an entirely new system. Jennings said she has quite a few things to pitch when speaking with recruits.

“I talk about being the first public university (in the upper Midwest) to have a program, because not everyone wants to do the private route,” Jennings said. “It’s also an awesome place to get an education and is mid-size, where a lot of the schools are very small that have lacrosse.”

Jennings wants to make sure that the school is a good fit for potential recruits, while letting them know they have a chance to make history and set a standard at UWRF. Building the game in the community is also a goal she wants to accomplish.

“It’s really important to have positive role models who can pass their love on of the game,” Jennings said. “I really want to find girls who are ready to hit the ground running.”

She hopes the support from former club players and alumni can also help bring support to potentially starting a youth program in the city or a program at River Falls High School.

While recruiting will be a big tool, the current club team at UWRF will also be a ready source of players for Jennings’ first team. Erika Woodruff, a senior captain on the club team, said that Jennings has made it clear she wants to potentially pull from the club team to find members for the first official team.

“She’s talked about bringing in the high school girls to watch us too and giving an opportunity to girls who haven’t played before to try out,” Woodruff said. “I think eight or nine (current players) may try out.”

The club team currently has about 18 members and prac-

tices twice a week at night in the fall and spring. They play scrimmages against close teams like UW-Eau Claire and club teams in the Twin Cities in the fall, while they usually play two tournaments in the spring.

“We pick one city and we will go play in a tournament, where we play three or four games in a weekend,” Woodruff said. “We also have our own tournament each spring, and we host the biggest tournament within our division, with teams from Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and the Dakotas.”

The team had to push back the tournament this year due to snow but is still looking to play against other teams in their division of the NCWLL, which includes club teams from the upper Midwest.

The team begins recruiting in the fall and doesn’t hold try-outs, instead encouraging people to try the sport for the first time. Lacrosse most commonly shares a crossover with basketball, soccer and hockey.

“When I started, we had a lot of talent and people that had been playing for a really long time,” Woodruff said.” Since I’ve been playing, we have a lot more that have never played and have continued to grow. We may not win as much, but our numbers are a lot bigger, and we have more diversity with people’s strengths.”

Woodruff has been a captain since her sophomore year, so it’s disappointing for her and the other seniors to have to leave before the sport reaches varsity status.

“We really wanted to be able to play and carry over some of the traditions,” Woodruff said. “But we’re excited for the girls to have more of an opportunity, and it’s awesome to bring it to the school. It’s one of the fastest-growing sports nationwide.”

While some members may be trying out next year, Woodruff said that it’s still important for them to maintain a club level atmosphere.

“We try to keep it middle level between intramural and Division III,” Woodruff said. “We try to have fun and do different drills that people enjoy doing. Practices are late at night, so we try to keep it as fun as possible.”

The university’s first lacrosse team will begin play next spring and play their home games at Ramer Field.



Photo courtesy of Monique Barrett
The UWRF club lacrosse team is pictured in spring of 2017. Lacrosse will be begin playing next spring as the university’s tenth women’s varsity sport.

Sports Schedule

April 13-14 women’s track and field at UW-Platteville

April 14 men’s track and field at Gustavus

April 14 women’s golf at Bethel University

April 14 women’s track and field at Gustavus

April 14 softball at UW-Stout (doubleheader), 11 a.m.

April 15 women’s tennis vs Saint Benedict, 12:30 p.m.

April 15 softball at UW-Whitewater (doubleheader), 2 p.m.

April 16 women’s tennis at University of Northwestern in St. Paul, Minn., 2:30 p.m.

April 16 women’s tennis vs University of Minnesota Duluth in St. Paul, Minn., 4 p.m.

April 18 softball vs UW-Eau Claire (doubleheader), 2 p.m.

April 19-20 men’s track and field at UW-La Crosse

April 19-20 women’s track and field at UW-La Crosse

Home games in **BOLD**

Sports Recap

Softball

The Falcons split a series with no. 5 ranked Luther College on Monday at the Rochester Dome. Noelle Senour hit a three-run homerun in the third inning to give the Falcons a 3-1 lead, which was her seventh homerun of the season. Luther fought back to take a 5-3 lead in the top of the fourth inning before Molley Kasper and Kaia Dorn delivered RBI’s to give the Falcons a 6-5 advantage. Aiyana Ledwein hit a walk-off single to bring Shannan Borchardt home in the bottom of the seventh to give UW-River Falls a 7-6 victory. Maddie Studnicka closed out the game in strong fashion, giving up only one run in her three innings pitched to give Luther their second loss of the seaosn. Game two was more of a pitching battle, with the main action coming in the first two innings. Luther scored twice off of unearned runs in the first inning before driving in an RBI single in the second to jump out to a 3-0 lead. Maddie Studnicka hit her fifth homerun of the year in the fourth inning to close the gap to 3-2 in favor of Luther. Payton Speckel only gave up one earned run in six innings of action and recorded five strikeouts. However, the Falcons only managed six hits on the afternoon compared to Luther’s nine, dropping Speckel to a 7-2 record on the season. The Falcons now sit at 15-5 overall on the season. They will take the field again this Saturday when they host a doubleheader against UW-Stout in St. Paul, Minn., at 11 a.m.

River Falls High School hosts Relay for Life fundraiser



Chris Gregg/WRFW

The Relay for Life event raised over \$90,000 for cancer awareness at River Falls High School last Friday.



Chris Gregg/WRFW

Community members pose with Freddy the Falcon at the Relay for Life event last Friday at River Falls High School. The walk also honored those who have lost loved ones to cancer.



Chris Gregg/WRFW

Freddy the Falcon receives spaghetti from chancellor Dean Van Galen at the Relay for Life event last Friday.

The Student Voice is taking applications for all positions for the Fall 2018 semester:

- Editor
- Assistant Editor
- Front Page Editor
- Sports Editor
- News Editor
- Viewpoints Editor
- Etcetera Editor
- Chief Photographer

- Staff Photographers
- Columnists
- Reviewers
- Freelance Reporters
- Cartoonists
- Proofreaders
- Business Manager
- Circulation Manager

To apply, fill out the Fall 2018 Student Voice applications on the Student Voice FalconSync page!

‘The Little Hours’: Velma ruins everything

Bethany Lovejoy
Reviewer

This week I watched “The Little Hours,” which is about nuns being nuns and doing un-nun things.

Supposedly it is based upon some great piece of Italian literature that changed the world, which makes sense because it is a very thoughtful movie. The movie stars three beautiful sisters who are very kind and compassionate toward all they meet. They are as follows:

Alison Brie, a nun who is looking for love in a cruel world.

Audrey Plaza, a nun who struggles with anger issues obviously forced upon her by the devil.

And, of course, the one girl who kinda looks like Velma Dinkley, a narc.

Each have their own personal struggles. Alison Brie struggles with the reality of the fact that she may never get married, Audrey Plaza struggles with her ties to another religion, and Velma struggles with being the worst person in the world.

They live in peace at the convent until one day a mean, angry farm man looks at them with eyes of pleasure. They can only react with fear and disgust, which drives them to the unholy act of beating the man up.

The father is sad, because this beating makes the man want to go. The poor father must transport goods made by the lovely nuns to town so that he may sell them and earn holy funds. He now must leave the convent in the hands of no one; a tragedy.

A few miles away, Dave Franco gets beaten up for sleeping with that grumpy guy from “Parks and Rec” ‘s wife, which



raises a lot of questions as to why this woman can not appreciate a good man.

Dave Franco may very well be killed, so he runs deep into the woods. Within the woods he sees a poor drunken man who

has lost his wares to the river ... the father! The father is drunk because all he had to drink was wine and therefore is wary toward Dave Franco’s glistening hands. Dave talks him down and rescues his wares.

They both sit and drink wine very briefly, having a conversation about Dave Franco’s sins. The father decides this man is worthy of redemption and takes him in, stipulating that in order to work at the convent, he must feign silence and pretend not to hear.

When Dave inquires as to why this is to happen, the father replies something along the lines of, “They’re going to beat you until you, like, die or something.”

And Dave is like, “Okay.”

He begins his work and captures many eyes of many nuns, all who desire the compassion and bravery beneath his tanned skin.

But lo’, the path to temptation is too deep; all must pursue the loins (love nest) of Dave Franco. In this pursuit, their very faith is shaken and many hearts (just Velma’s) are breakin’.

Velma also just proves to be a horrible person and tells on everyone for being involved in witchcraft, eating blood, fornicating, losing donkeys conveniently and taking drugs. This is because Velma is a spoil sport.

Being honest about this movie, it’s a bit slow at times but still a little hilarious. Dave Franco was a 10/10 babe and Molly Shannon was in it, so I can’t really complain much.

0/1 Velmas.

Bethany Lovejoy is a junior at UWRF. She is a creative writing major, and all she does is sleep, watch Netflix and tell you to watch Netflix.

‘A Quiet Place’ keeps audiences silent, in suspense

Bennett Ryynanen
Review

When the studio logos appeared on screen without their standard music at my showing for “A Quiet Place,” everyone in the theater caught on quick. By the time of the opening shot, there was no chatter or even nervous laughter. The nearly full auditorium was silent enough to hear feet shuffling from across the room. Finally, a moviegoing experience that truly lives up to its name.

The movie, directed by “The Office” alum John Krasinski, opens on day 89 after an unspecified apocalyptic event. Using minimal dialogue, the movie relies heavily on visuals to communicate just enough to the viewer about what’s happened to the world. Newspapers scattered throughout the ruined city establish exactly how quickly society fell to this unseen threat. One headline reads, “It’s sound.” “You’re on your own,” says another.

The movie makes a smart choice by starting months after the beginning of this threat. There’s no need to waste time establish how our heroes learned to pour sand wherever they planned on walking or forego shoes altogether. These are logical nuances that survivors would pick up when they’re being hunted by monsters that have a knack for hearing even the smallest noise.

The urgency with which our characters remain noiseless is infectious. It’s the reason the theater remained silent for the entire run time. Emily Blunt and Krasinski own the roles of

protective parents in the post-apocalypse. In fact, about 30 minutes in, I stopped seeing any remnants of Jim Halpert. There was only a resourceful man who’s determined to be a father first and survivor second.

In a genre that’s basically defined by characters making the worst possible decisions, it’s refreshing to see a movie where people act entirely rationally. Having a deaf daughter, the family was ahead of the curve for this scenario. Almost all communication in the movie is done through American Sign Language. Speaking of the family’s children, the young talent in this movie deliver impeccable performances.

The first act largely follows the family’s day to day life, showing how they get by with this new reality. That’s not to say it gets off to a slow start, though. Krasinski Takes a Spielberg-esque approach to rising action. The final act is full of creative and entertaining set pieces and is home to some of the movie’s most memorable moments.

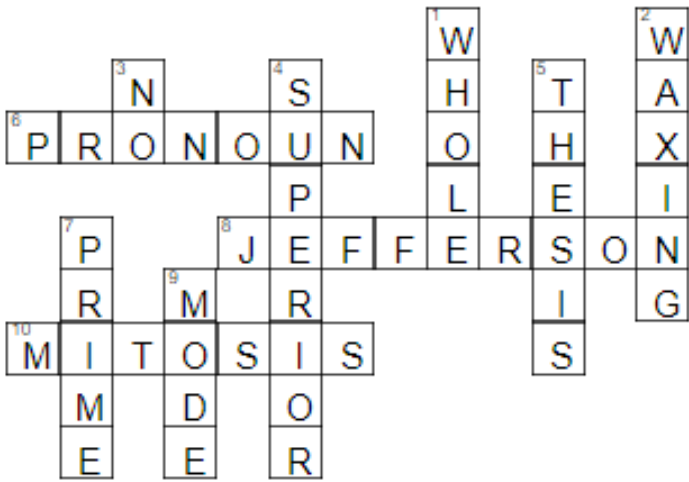
“A Quiet Place” is a welcome surprise for suspense fans. Towing the line between horror and thriller, it appeals to people looking for scares without ever becoming nightmare fuel. My prediction: after seeing it you’ll want to watch it with friends for their first time.

Bennett Ryynanen is a freshman studying journalism and marketing communications. His love of “The Office” was a major motivation for seeing “A Quiet Place.” He was very brave during the whole movie. He didn’t look away during the scary parts, he swears.



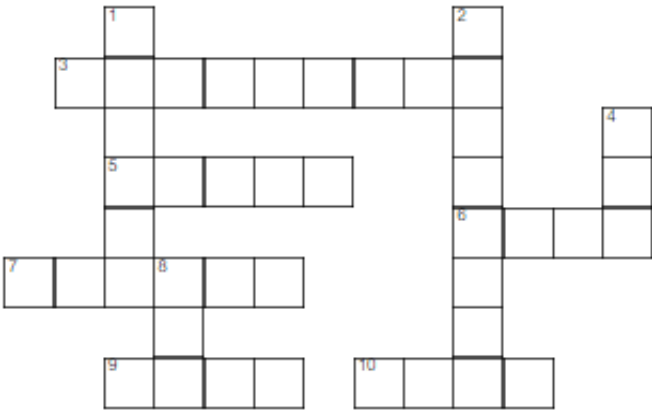
Last Week’s Answers

Trivia From 5th Grade



Puzzle of the Week

Dr. Who (spoilers)



- ACROSS
- 3 The Doctor’s home planet, now destroyed.
- 5 Race of aliens whose only goal is to “EXTERMINATE!!!!”
- 6 _____ Tyler. First and only companion to the ninth Doctor. Gets trapped in another dimension.
- 7 The only living Time Lord aside from the Doctor.
- 9 River _____. Her’s and the Doctor’s timelines are moving in opposite directions.
- 10 Amy and Rory _____. First companions to the eleventh Doctor.
- DOWN
- 1 The Doctor’s ship.
- 2 Race of cyborgs who want to “delete” you if you don’t join them.
- 4 The Face of _____. Weird, giant head in a jar who makes occasional appearances.
- 8 The number of hearts the Doctor has.

Find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

The first person to report the find to zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu. AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

Now Playing: “A Quiet Place”

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts: @uwrfvoice and facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com.